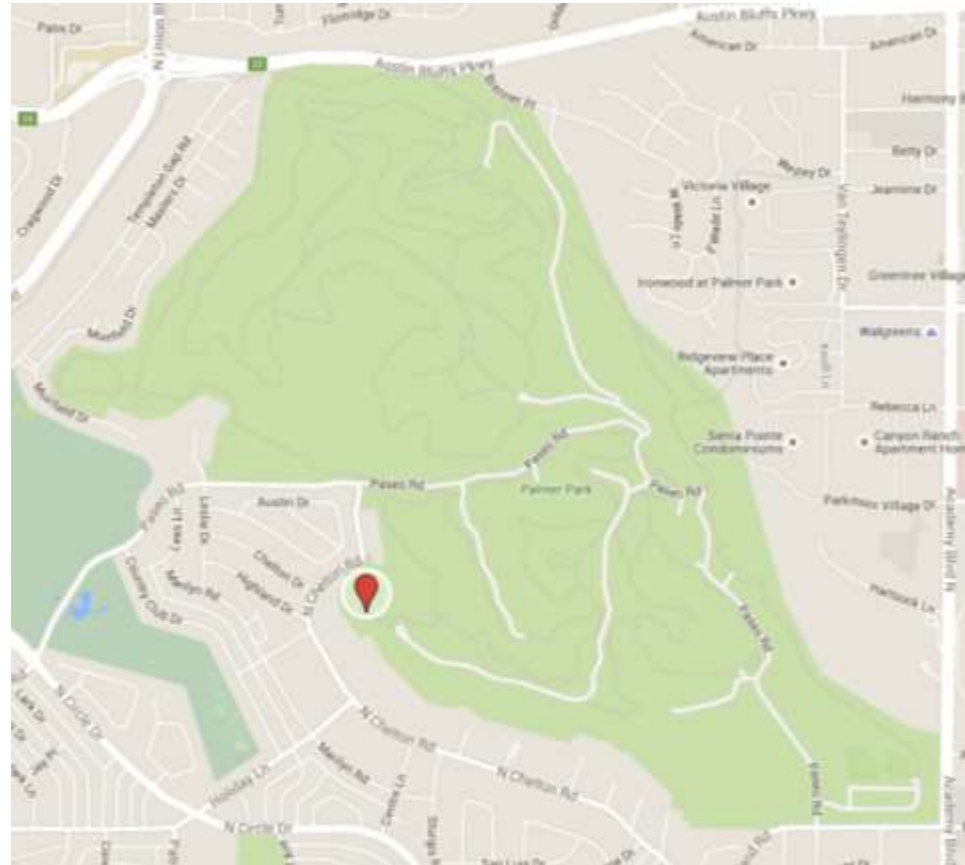


A Proposal for the Renaming of the Grandview Overlook in Palmer Park

Proposal Summary

To rename the Grandview Overlook feature in Palmer Park as the Mayor John R. Robinson Grandview Overlook to honor former-Mayor Robinson who was an advocate encouraging the purchase and creation of the park



Background

While Palmer Park is one of the gems of the City park system, at the turn of the previous century, it is not apparent that the Citizens of the time wanted the land for a park

Mayor John Robinson (1899-1902) of Colorado Springs made it a goal of his administration to help add “Austin’s Bluffs” to the City park network

Mayor Robinson worked with General William Palmer who went on to purchase and gift the land to Colorado Springs to become a park

Source

It has only been in the past 15 years that we have found out this piece of Palmer Park's past through a letter Mayor Robinson wrote to "The Citizens of Colorado Springs in the Twenty-First Century" stored 100 years in the Century Chest time capsule at Colorado College where these events are mentioned

with me, that it would be a valuable acquisition to our park system. I interested our public spirited citizen Saml Wm Palmer in my plans and a few days since he informed me that he had decided to purchase the tract and present it to the city. He has made a proposition for the park and adjacent coal lands and his proposition has been accepted, but the deed has not been executed and the public has not been informed of this valuable gift to the city. It will

“The writer since his election to the mayoralty conceived the idea that the tract of land lying north-east of the city and known as "Austin's Bluffs", is the ideal site for a large City Park.”

“[I] recommended its purchase by the city but public sentiment seemed to be antagonistic or indifferent and the council did nothing. Still feeling earnestly that the city should own this park, I have taken landscape architects of wide reputation over the ground and found that they agreed with me that it would be a valuable acquisition to our park system.

“I interested our public spirited citizen General Wm. J. Palmer in my plans and a few days since he informed me that he had decided to purchase the tract and present it to the city. He has made a proposition for the park and adjacent coal land and his proposition has been accepted, but the deed has not been executed and the public has not been informed of the valuable gift to the city.”

“In securing this park to the city I have accomplished one of the chief ambitions of my administration and if I accomplish nothing more that will live, **I believe something has been done for future generations worthy of the effort that I have made.**”

Proposed Changes

The Grandview Overlook feature in Palmer Park
be renamed to The Mayor John R. Robinson
Grandview Overlook

Appropriate signage at the Grandview Overlook
be changed in accordance with the name
change

Grand View Overlook

Road opens as conditions permit.

PALMER PARK

Palmer Park: A High Plains Oasis

General William Jackson Palmer was a dreamer.

A railroad builder by trade, he arrived at the base of Pikes Peak in 1869, and was captivated by this place where the plains meet the mountains. Knowing he would stay here, General Palmer founded the City of Colorado Springs in 1871. These rocky hills and sandstone-studded canyons were known locally as Austin's Bluffs, named for Henry W. Austin, a Chicago merchant. Austin bought the land intending to graze sheep there. The area was miles from the center of Palmer's city, however in a flurry of parkland gifts, the General bought the land and decided it to the city in 1902. It was named Palmer Park.



Palmer loved this park. Its bluffs, he wrote, offered "a distant view of the kind that gives unity to the imagination and allows no foothold for it to halt upon, short of infinity."

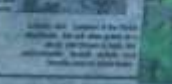


PALMER PARK

Palmer Park's Healthy Ecosystem

Flora

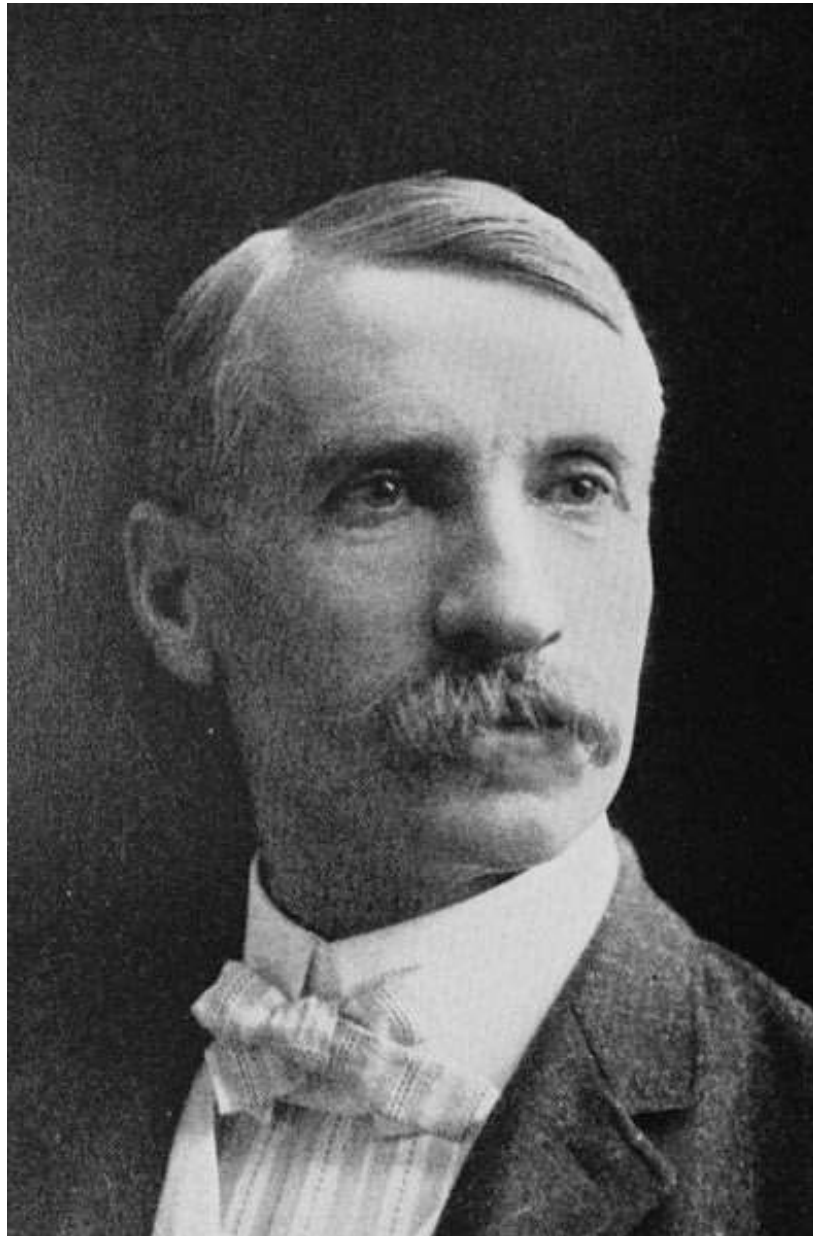
This is a high plains ecosystem, with dry, coarse grass and mud in which cacti, shrubs and junipers thrive.



Fauna

Surrounded by the city on all sides, Palmer Park provides valuable wildlife habitat.





"It is profitless to indulge in prophecy but I believe Colorado Springs will be a great city."

-Mayor John Robinson, August 1, 1901